



April 19, 2004  
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Lewistown, MT----The Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office will soon begin hosting scoping open houses in central and western Montana concerning an application for permit to drill for natural gas along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The intent of these open houses is to closely involve the public in defining the specific issues to be analyzed in the Blackleaf Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Notice of Intent to prepare the Blackleaf Project EIS (which marks the beginning of the public scoping process) was published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2004. The BLM has scheduled these five open houses to provide information and accept public comments that will help define the resource issues related to industries' proposal.

The schedule for the public meetings looks like this:

DATE	COMMUNITY	LOCATION
May 3	Choteau	High School Auditorium
May 4	Great Falls	Holiday Inn Convention Center
May 5	Missoula	University Center South Ballroom
May 17	Helena	Carroll College Campus Center Sienna/Ross/Rice Room
May 20	Browning	Blackfeet Community College Commons

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All meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will provide an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists and displays to answer questions and provide information. At approximately 6:45 p.m. the BLM will deliver a few, brief remarks and show a power point presentation explaining the industry's proposal along with a reasonable foreseeable development scenario. After this, the public will be encouraged to resume visiting resource stations or visit the public comment room to listen or provide comments.

The BLM received Applications for Permit to Drill three natural gas wells from one location on BLM managed lands in Teton County, along the Rocky Mountain Front. The proposed drilling location is within the Montana Thrust Belt, approximately 75 miles northwest of Great Falls, Montana. The Blackleaf EIS will analyze this proposal and the reasonable foreseeable development scenario.

If you can not attend any of these open houses, the BLM will accept written or e-mail comments. Please submit your specific comments by June 1, 2004. Written comments should be sent to Field Manager/Blackleaf Project EIS Team Lead, Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office, P.O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457. E-mail comments should be submitted to [mt\\_blackleaf\\_eis@blm.gov](mailto:mt_blackleaf_eis@blm.gov).

Comments provided by individuals will be available for public review unless you specifically request otherwise prominently at the beginning of your written comments.

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